

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action issued January 31, 2005.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 19, 21, 22, 26-28, 32, 37, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of one or more of Patent Publication No. 0285844 A2 to Antonious (“Antonious”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,290,609 to Takeda (Takeda). The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7-12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 29-31, 33-36, and 38-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of one or more of Antonious, Takeda, and U.S. Patent No. 5,944,619 to Cameron (“Cameron”). The Examiner indicated that claims 15, 16, and 23-25 were allowable.

Drawings

The Applicants submit herewith formal drawings on three replacement sheets. No changes are made relative the drawings as filed. No new matter is added. Entry of the replacement drawing figures is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 15, 16, and 23-25 were allowable. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

In sections 1 and 2, of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 19, 21, 22, 26-28, 32, 37, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of one or more of Antonious and Takeda. Specifically, the Examiner rejected 1, 2, 4-6, and 45 in view of Antonious, and claims 1, 2, 6, 8-11, 13, 19, 21, 22, 26-28, 32, 37, and 45 in view of Takeda. In sections 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7-12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 29-31, 33-36, and 38-44

under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of one or more of Antonious, Takeda, and Cameron. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 7-11 in view of Antonious, claims 3-5, 7, 14, 17, 18, 20, 33, 34, 41, and 43 in view of Takeda, and claims 12, 29-31, 35, 36, 38-40, 42, and 44 in view of Takeda modified by Cameron.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowed claim 15, thereby obviating the rejections. Claims 23 and 24, which the Examiner also indicated were allowable, have been placed in independent form. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims in original form in one or more continuing applications.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome.

Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Swidler Berlin LLP Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (order no. 20003.0078).

Conclusion

Claims 2, 13, and 15 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, and 29 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-12, 14, and 16-45 are pending in the application, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims. Should the Examiner feel

further communication would help prosecution, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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